

# PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

16 JANUARY 2020

No. 11

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*Weekly Worship, Events & Announcements —  
Submissions Welcome!*

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### Upcoming Week

- ❖ Sunday service at home: [Typika Service](#) (click top left triple-bar menu, choose 'Sacraments & Services,' then 'Liturgy'), used with [Liturgy - Variable Parts](#)
  - ❖ Archdiocesan [Sunday bulletin](#)
  - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
  - ❖ Online [9.30 Sunday Matins & Liturgy](#) at Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London
  - ❖ Online [10.30 Sunday Liturgy](#) at St Nicholas Parish, Oxford
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### Events & Announcements

After prayerful and careful consideration and in consultation with Clergy, medical professionals and lay leadership of the Archdiocese, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain has decided that **all the Churches of the Archdiocese will close for public worship, beginning Saturday, 9 January, 2021**, following the same policy enacted during the 1<sup>st</sup> National Lockdown in March 2020. This measure is enacted to preserve human life and to help in stopping the spread of Coronavirus. [...] The faithful are asked to pray and ask God to send His healing grace upon the world and to be obedient to the Church, the government regulations and medical professionals.

**18–25 January** is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Archbishop Nikitas will be [giving a retreat](#) at Westminster Abbey on **23 January**, and local events including a joint service on **Sunday 17 January** are detailed on the poster appended below.

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## From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

Last week we were overtaken by events. Hardly had I sent off my words for the Bulletin when I received the Archbishop's directive that all churches of our Archdiocese were to close for public worship until further notice. So we are now back to the situation we were in almost a year ago, at the time of the first lockdown. With no Liturgy or other services being celebrated in our church some people are wondering how we can continue to keep our sense of community alive. As a starting point I would like to suggest three things that we can all do.

First, of course, is prayer. "Orthodoxy" does not mean only correctness of belief. It also means the right glorification, the right worship. For worship is central to the life of the Church. Traditionally, Orthodox missionary activity has started from the celebration of the services, especially the Divine Liturgy, and has invited people to join in this activity. Although we cannot at present serve the Liturgy, we can all join in and be united in prayer. In our prayers we not only ask God for our needs and our wants – we also give him our gratitude and praise, and we offer our repentance for the ways in which we have failed him. Memorably, Anne Lamott sums this up as the essential prayers of "Help!", "Thanks!" and "Wow!", to which we should also add "Sorry". The books of prayers that we use train us in this discipline, by giving us models of prayer from the great experts, but we shouldn't be afraid to add our own words to them as each day we "entrust ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God".

As in the first lockdown, I shall be saying Vespers on Saturday evening at 6:00 and Matins on Sunday morning at 9:00 on behalf of our community, and I invite all who can to join with me in prayer at those times, for as little or as long as you are able. Within those services I pray for the living and for the departed, and I ask that you send me the names of all those you would like me to remember before God.

A second way of retaining our sense of community is to meet together outside the context of services. We cannot meet physically, but thanks to the gifts of modern technology we are able to enjoy virtual meetings. As I said last week, we are looking to revive the meetings we enjoyed last year, both in relation to the feasts celebrated by the Church, and as social and educational gatherings. I hope that many of you will be able to participate in, and benefit from, this initiative.

Thirdly, let us not forget to look outwards. During the first lockdown we were able to support members of our community who were isolated, living alone, or without access to the technology on which so many of us rely. Can you help these people again? There may be practical needs, such as shopping, to be met, but there will also be the more intangible requirements. Maybe you know someone who simply needs a phone call or even a letter of support. Maybe you can share information about our parish's virtual life with them, or collect their prayer requests. If you are

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## From Fr Ian (*continued*)

able to volunteer, or if you are aware of someone who could benefit from this sort of help please email [community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk) where a central list is being compiled.

This crisis could drive us apart, but it can also bring us closer together. May God grant that the latter may be true of us!

With my love to you all,

Fr Ian

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## Parish Council



*The next in our series of introductions, this week a newly elected Parish Council member:*

I am an IT professional who started as a physicist, but even as a student quickly developed a passion for computers and networks built to help with large-scale scientific/industrial challenges. It has now been almost a decade since I migrated from Greece to the UK and became a member of the Parish, which has been critical to my settling in.

**—Dimitris Zilaskos**

We are grateful to all the parishioners who recently have brought their membership up-to-date and established standing orders. The pandemic has of course had a large impact on in-person donations and caused our usual fundraising events to be cancelled, so if you are in a position to support the parish financially [donations via PayPal](#) or a standing order would be timely ([email for details](#))! Please also consider [gift aid](#) which allows our community to claim additional funds on your donation.

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Registered Charity no. 1011772

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## Please remember Holy Trinity Parish in your prayers!

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# ABIDING IN CHRIST AROS YNG NGRHIST AG MAIREACHTÁIL I GCRÍOST



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021  
Wythnos weddi am undeb cristnogol 2021  
An tSeachtain Ghuí le hAontacht Chríostaí 2021



An opportunity to share in the daily prayer of other churches in Marston with a special shared service on Sunday 17 Jan.

|            |         |                              |               |
|------------|---------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Sun 17 Jan | 6 pm    | St Anthony                   | Joint Service |
| Mon 18 Jan | 9.30 am | St Nicholas                  |               |
| Tue 19 Jan | 9.30 am | Marston URC                  |               |
| Wed 20 Jan | 8 pm    | St Anthony                   |               |
| Thu 21 Jan | 9.30 am | St Michael                   |               |
| Fri 22 Jan | 9.30 am | Northway                     |               |
| Sat 23 Jan | 9.30 am | St Nicholas the Wonderworker |               |
| Mon 25 Jan | 9.30 am | Rivers of Life               |               |

All events by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4276663979>  
Password 2520